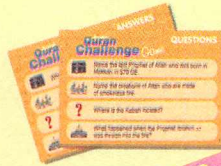
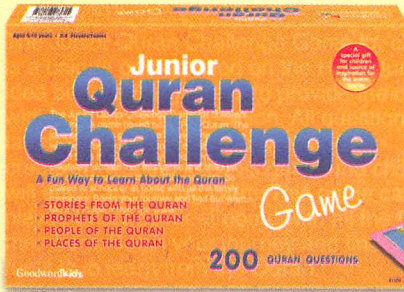


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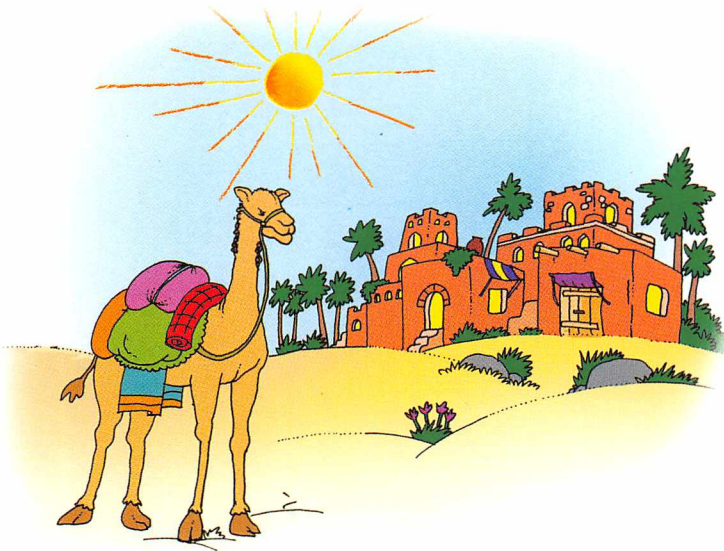
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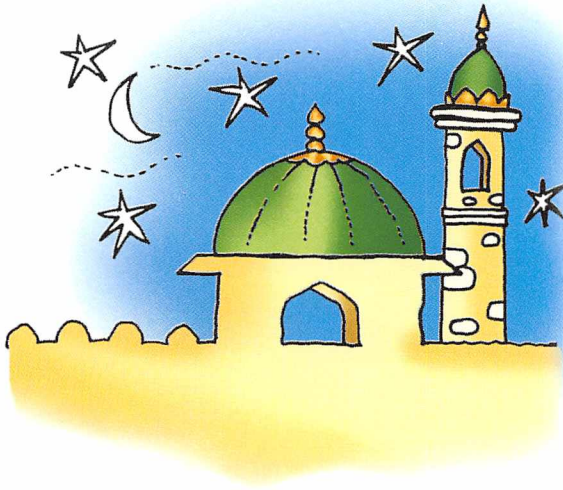
Islamic Studies



A Graded Course Grade 3

Saniyasnain Khan
Mohammad Imran Erfani

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CONTENTS

1	Faith and Belief in Islam	4
2	Religious Duties in Islam	9
3	Prayer in Islam	14
4	Quran: the Holy Scripture of Islam	17
5	The Life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ	20
6	Festivals in Islam	27
7	Morals and Manners in Islam	32
8	Halal and Haram in Islam	38
9	The First Man	41
10	A Rightly Guided Caliph: Abu Bakr	45
11	Supplications (Dua) for Daily Life	51
12	Some Short Surahs	54

What is Iman?

We know we are Muslims and that our religion is Islam. But what is it that makes us Muslims? What does the religion Islam mean? Let us find out.

Allah says in the Quran: ‘I have chosen for you Islam as your religion.’ (Surah al-Ma’idah, 5:3)

A Muslim is not known only by his name or face. He is known by his *iman* (faith and belief) and *aqeedah*. *Aqeedah* is the creed of Islam. The word ‘creed’ means a statement of belief.

All Muslims have a common belief which is known as *iman mufassal* or the complete faith. The statement of *iman mufassal* is as follows:

أَمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
وَالْقَدْرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ

*Amantu billahi wa malaikatihi wa kutubihi
wa rusulihi wal-yawmil-akhiri
wal-qadri khayrihi wa sharrihi min-Allahi ta'ala
wal-ba'thi ba'dal-mawt.*

This means:

I believe in Allah, and His angels, and His scriptures, and His Prophets, and the Last Day, and in Allah’s Power over everything good and evil, and in Life after Death.

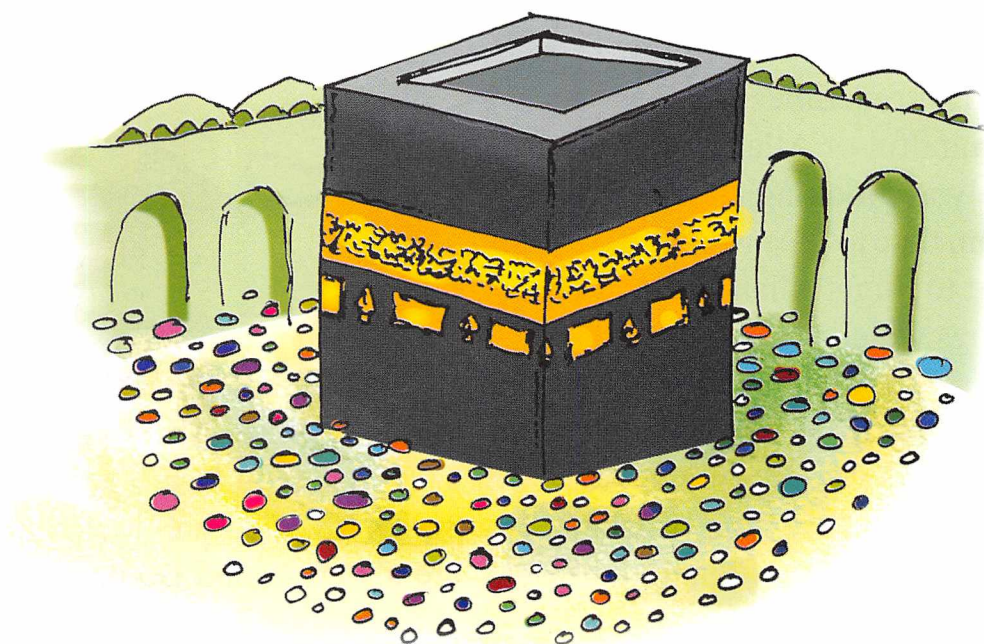
The word *iman* stands for faith. A Muslim puts his faith or believes in the following things, which are known as the ‘articles of faith’:

1. Belief in the Oneness of Allah (*at-Tawhid*)
2. Belief in the Angels (*al-Malaikah*)
3. Belief in the Scriptures of Allah (*Kutub-Allah*)
4. Belief in the Prophets of Allah (*Rasul-Allah*)
5. Belief in the Last Day (*Yawm al-Qiyamah*)
6. Belief in the Life after Death (*al-Akhirah*)

Let us learn more about these six beliefs.

Belief in the Oneness of Allah (*at-Tawhid*)

Allah is the Creator of all things. He is the only object of worship and nothing else and no one else deserves to be worshipped. Muslims believe in the oneness of Allah, such as, He was not born, He does not give birth, He has no wife, children, or father or mother or any type of partner. This oneness of Allah is termed *at-Tawhid*.



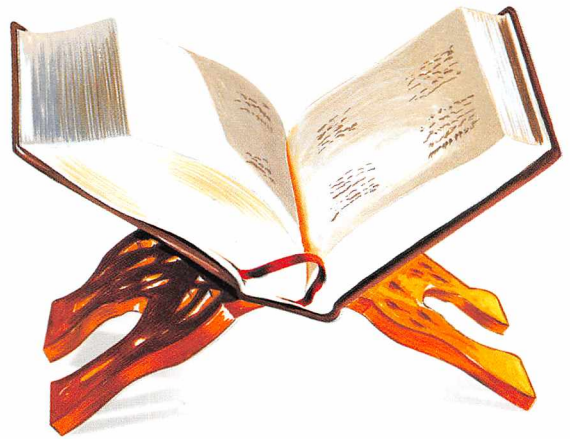
Belief in the Angels (*al-Malaikah*)

While creating everything in the universe, Allah also created the angels from divine light or *nur*. Angels glorify, serve and worship Allah. They are not visible to the human eye but they can take different forms and shapes to become visible. Do you know:

- ✦ that it was the angel Jibril (Gabriel) who revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?
- ✦ that Izrail is the angel of death who gives believers the good news about *jannah* or paradise?
- ✦ that the angels Kiraman Katibin accompany us all the time and write down whatever good and bad we do?
- ✦ that the angels Munkar and Nakir question the dead in the grave?

Belief in the Books of Allah (*Kutub-Allah*)

Though we human beings sometimes become unmindful of Allah, Allah is always looking after us. From time to time when we start to forget Allah and do things which are hateful in



His sight, Allah sends us His prophets with His message. Sometimes, this message is collected in the form of a scripture. A scripture is a holy book which contains Allah's message and guidance. The Quran is the Holy Scripture of Islam. The Books revealed previous to the Quran like, the *Injil* and the *Tawrat* are also revealed Books.

Belief in the Prophets of Allah (*Rasul-Allah*)

We have seen before that Allah sends His prophets to guide humankind to the right path. The prophets are human beings like us but are specially chosen by Allah to preach His message. Believing in all the prophets is essential for a Muslim. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the prophet of Islam. And he was Allah's last messenger who was sent for all humanity.

Belief in the Last Day (*Yawm al-Qiyamah*)

One day Allah will bring to an end all that He has created. This day is known as the Last Day, or *Yawm al-Akhir*. Then He will recreate us all, and gather us to judge the actions we have done in this world. He will reward the doers of good and punish the wrongdoers. This is the Day of Standing or *Yawm al-Qiyamah*, when all human beings will stand up to be judged. Both *Yawm al-Akhir* and *Yawm al-Qiyamah* are commonly known as the Last Day.

On the Last Day the mountains will crumble to dust and the skies and the sun and the moon will come to an end. All creatures in the universe will die. This Last Day is sure to come. The Last Day is an essential part of Islamic belief.

Belief in the Life After Death (*al-Akhirah*)

We read above about the Last Day when everything will come to an end. After that Allah will again give life to all human beings. All of us will be presented before Allah on that day and judged for our actions in the present world. Those whose actions are good will be rewarded with the Gardens of Paradise (*Jannah*). All evil-doers will be punished in the fire of Hell (*Jahannam*). All the dwellers of Paradise and Hell will have an eternal life. This Life after Death in which all Muslims believe, is a part of Islamic belief.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) All Muslims have _____ beliefs. (separate/common)
- 2) There are _____ basic beliefs in Islam. (six/two)
- 3) Iman mufassal means the _____. (Complete Faith/Last Day)
- 4) All prophets are _____. (angels/human beings)
- 5) The angel of death is called _____. (Izrail/Jibril)

Match the Columns

Column A

at-Tawhid
al-Malaikah
Kutub Allah
Rasul Allah
Yawm al-Qiyamah
al-Akhirah

Column B

The Last Day
The Books of Allah
The Oneness of Allah
Life after death
The prophets of Allah
The angels of Allah

State whether True or False

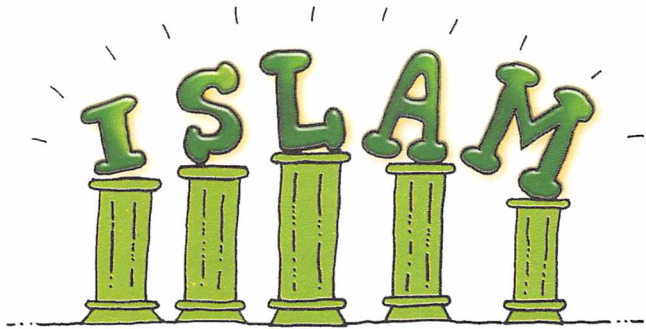
- 1) The angel Jibril revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
- 2) The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the last prophet and last messenger of Allah.
- 3) The angels Kiraman Katibin are the angels of death.
- 4) On the Day of Judgement all our actions in the present world will be judged.
- 5) Tawhid is a part of iman mufassal.



The Pillars of Islam

There are five religious duties which a Muslim must fulfil. These religious duties are:

1. *Shahadah*
2. *Salah*
3. *Zakah*
4. *Sawm*
5. *Hajj*



These five religious duties are known as *arkan al-Islam* or the ‘pillars of Islam.’ Let us learn what these five pillars are.

Shahadah

Shahadah is an Arabic word. It means bearing witness. All Muslims bear witness to the following:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

(Ashhadu an la ilaha illallahu wa ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasulullah.)

This means: ‘I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.’

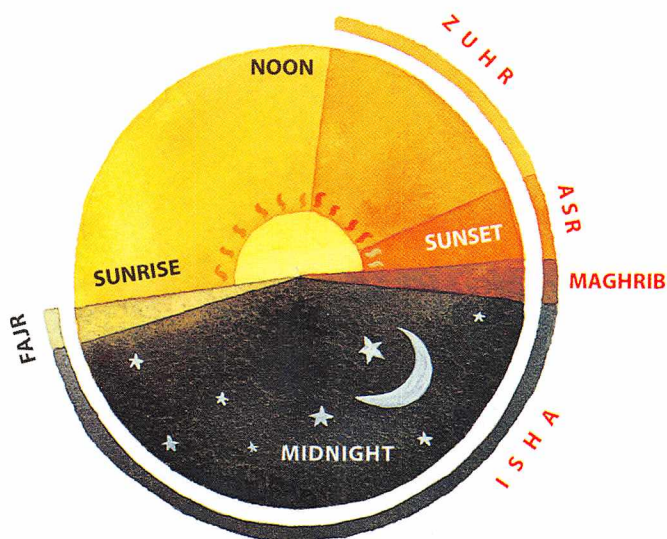
Without bearing witness to the Oneness of Allah and without accepting the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as the Messenger of Allah, one cannot be considered a Muslim. This is the first and most compulsory duty of a Muslim.

Salah (Prayer)

The *salah* is made obligatory for the believers, to be offered at fixed times. (Surah an-Nisa, 4:103)

The Arabic term *salah* means prayer. Believers are required to perform *salah* five times everyday. Allah Himself revealed this to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, when the Prophet was brought into His presence during *al-Miraj* (Ascension). In fact, Allah wanted us to pray fifty times a day, but on the request of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, this was reduced to five times. The five daily prayers are as follows:

- 🌞 *Fajr* (the morning prayer)
- 🌞 *Zuhr* (the noon prayer)
- 🌞 *Asr* (the late afternoon prayer)
- 🌞 *Maghrib* (the evening prayer)
- 🌙 *Isha* (the night prayer)



Timings of Daily Prayers

On Fridays, the *zuhr* prayer is replaced by the *jumuah* prayer. These are the compulsory prayers which every Muslim should perform at the appointed times.

Zakah (Charity)

This is the act of spending a certain portion of one's wealth for poor and needy. This is obligatory for every Muslim who possesses the means to pay *zakah*. All Muslims are not liable to pay *zakah*. There is an amount of wealth fixed by the Islamic Law, on which, a Muslim possessing this amount is liable to pay *zakah*. *Zakah* is a system that along with the spiritual gain uplifts poor and needy and brings about a balanced economy in society.



Sawm (Fasting)

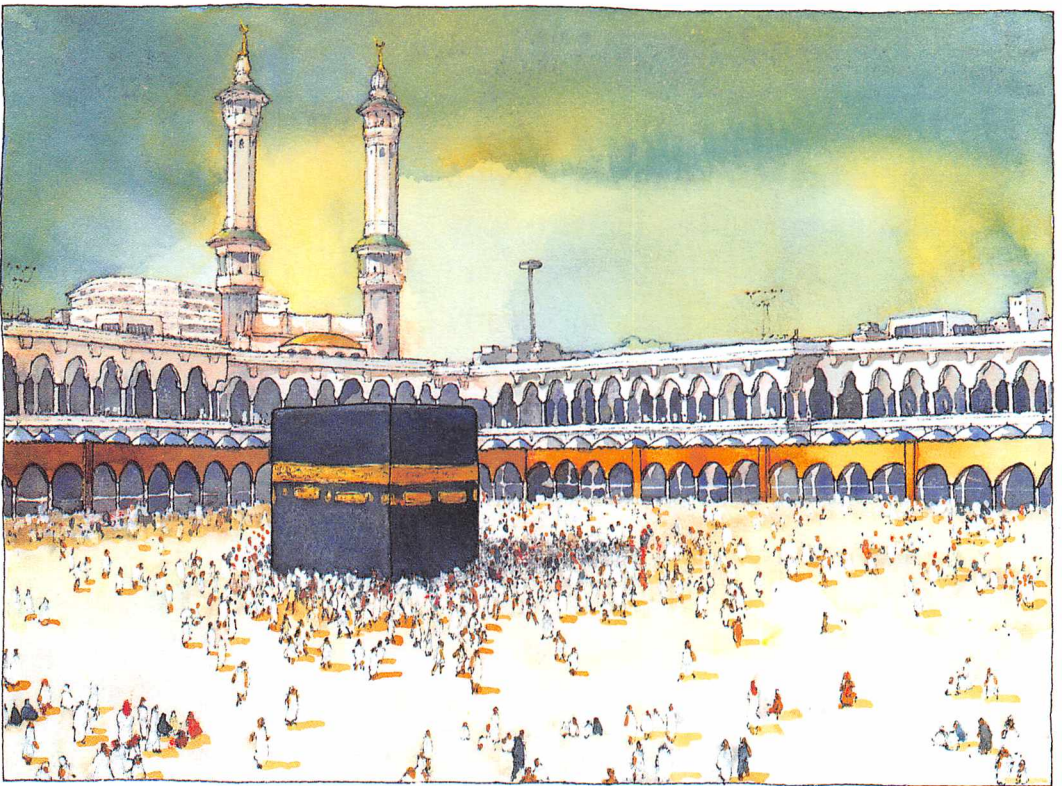
This means fasting. Fasting in the month of Ramadan is compulsory for all adult Muslims. Those who are sick or on a journey, are exempted from it. But on achieving health or completion of the

journey, the missed fasts must be made up. During the fast Muslims are required to abstain from all kind of food and drink from early morning to sunset. Fasting is an obligatory part of *ibadah* or worship.



Hajj (Pilgrimage)

The Arabic word *hajj* means pilgrimage or a religious journey to the Kabah in Makkah in the month of Dhu'l-Hijjah. All Muslims who have the means to make the journey and whose health allows them to undertake it, are compulsorily required to undertake the *hajj* at least once in their lifetime. During the *hajj*, Muslims perform a series of religious rites set by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.



The five religious duties are compulsory for all Muslims. In all circumstances Muslims are bound to discharge these duties. Whoever fails in this will incur Allah's wrath and will be punished by Allah.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) Arkan al-Islam contain _____ religious duties of Muslims. (seven/five)
- 2) The Jumuah prayer of Friday replaces the _____ prayer. (maghrib/zuhr)
- 3) Fasting (sawm) is observed in the month of _____.
(Ramadan/Dhu'l-Hijjah)
- 4) The religious journey to the Kabah is called _____. (zakah/hajj)
- 5) The arkan al-Islam are obligatory for all _____. (Muslims/Jews)

Match the Columns

Column A

Hajj

Sawm

Salah

Zakah

Shahadah

Column B

Giving a portion of wealth to the poor and needy

Regular prayers of Muslims

Pilgrimage to the Kabah

Testifying Allah's Oneness

Abstaining from food and drink (fasting)

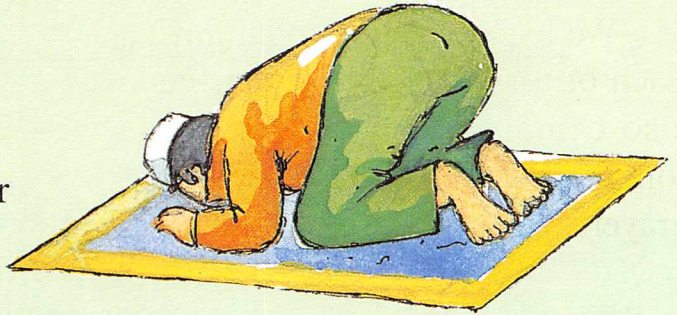
State whether True or False

- 1) The word shahadah means prayer.
- 2) The maghrib prayer is offered in the morning.
- 3) The act of spending a part of one's wealth for poor and needy Muslims is called zakah.
- 4) Fasting is observed from sunset to morning.
- 5) The hajj involves a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.



In Grade-2 we learned how to offer *salah* (prayers). Let us learn a little more about the categories of *salah*. Prayers are divided into four prime categories, namely:

- ✦ *Fard* prayer
- ✦ *Wajib* prayer
- ✦ *Sunnah* prayer
- ✦ *Nafl* prayer



***Fard* prayer**

Fard means obligatory. This means that *fard* prayers are compulsory for Muslims. The *fard* prayers are commanded by Allah. If a *fard* prayer is missed for some reason, it should be made up later. The reward for praying in congregation is more than for praying alone. But the spirit that is more important is *khushu* (humility) and *khudu* (submission). It means the more effective prayers are those in which the person prays with humility and submission.

***Wajib* prayer**

This is also an obligatory prayer but of lesser importance than the *fard* prayer. The *witr* prayer offered during the *isha* prayer is a *wajib* prayer.

Sunnah prayer

Though not commanded by Allah, the *sunnah* prayers are offered by Muslims because it was the practice of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Nafl prayer

Nafl prayers are optional, or voluntary prayers which one can offer depending on one's will.

We learned above about *fard*, *wajib*, *sunnah* and *nafl* prayers. Each of the five daily prayers contain *fard* prayers. Besides, they also contain additional *sunnah*, *wajib*, and *nafl* prayers. The following table will help you know the number of each type of prayers offered at different times.

Name of Prayer	Before Fard	Fard	After Fard			
			Sunnah (rakahs)	Fard (rakahs)	Sunnah (rakahs)	Nafl (rakahs)
Fajr	2	2				
Zuhr	4	4	2	2		
Asr	4	4				
Maghrib	—	3	2	2		
Isha	4	4	2	2	3	2
Jumuah	4	2	4+2	2		

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) The reward for a prayer offered in a congregation is _____ than for that offered in solitude. (greater/lesser)
- 2) The obligatory prayers are called _____. (fard/nafl)
- 3) _____ and _____ make the prayer more effective. (fard, witr/khushu, khudu)
- 4) _____ prayer is a congregational prayer. (nafl/fard)
- 5) Fajr prayer contains _____ rakahs sunnah and _____ rakahs of fard. (4, 4/2, 2)

Match the Columns

Column A

Fard
Nafl
Wajib
Khushu
Sunnah

Column B

Voluntary prayer
Compulsory prayer
Humility
Obligatory prayer of lesser degree
Prayers in line with the practice of the Prophet

State whether True or False

- 1) Prayers are divided into two prime categories.
- 2) When a nafl prayer is missed, it should be made up later.
- 3) The witr prayer is a sunnah prayer.
- 4) The sunnah prayers are offered by Muslims because it was the practice of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
- 5) The asr prayer contains two rakahs of sunnah prayers.



Quran: the Holy Scripture of Islam

We learned in Chapter 1 about the articles of *iman* (faith). Believing in the Scriptures of Allah is one of the six Muslim beliefs.

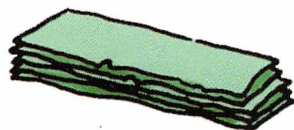
What is the Scripture of Allah? Let us learn something about it.



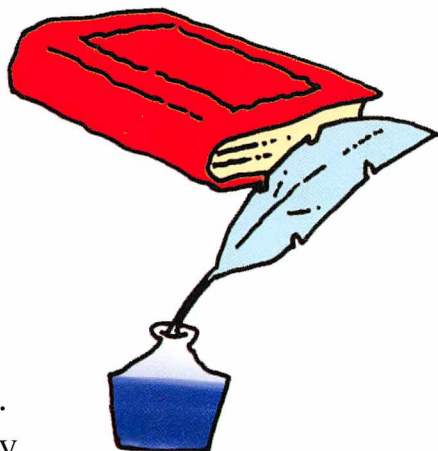
We have already seen that Allah sends His prophets to the people from time to time. Whenever humankind have gone astray, the prophets have come to guide them in the right way which Allah wants them to follow. Many of the prophets preached to their people after receiving Allah's message in a dictated form. These include the Prophets Nuh عليه السلام and Salih عليه السلام. However, to some prophets, Allah has given His message in the form of books or oral texts later compiled in the written form. These books contain the revelations (*wahi*) of Allah. Here are the revealed scriptures of Allah:

The <i>Suhuf</i> (Scrolls)	revealed to the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام
The <i>Tawrat</i> (Torah)	revealed to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام
The <i>Zabur</i> (Psalms)	revealed to the Prophet Dawud عليه السلام
The <i>Injil</i> (Gospel)	revealed to the Prophet Isa عليه السلام
The <i>Quran</i>	revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Thus we see that the Book received by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the Quran.



The Quran was not written by any human being or by angels. It is Allah's own words. These were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by the angel Jibril. These revelations lasted a period of twenty-three years from 610 CE to the death of the Prophet in 632 CE.



The Quran contains 114 chapters. Each chapter is called a *surah*. Every *surah* has a name like *al-Fatihah*, *al-Baqarah*, etc. Each *surah* contains some verses. These verses are known as *ayah* (plural: *ayat*).

The Quran is the final revelation of Allah. It is the only book from Allah which has not changed, that is, it remains in the same form as it was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Holy Quran deserves our utmost respect. Before reading the Quran we purify ourselves by performing the *wudu* or ablution.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) The Holy Book of the Muslims is called the _____. (Injil/Quran)
- 2) The Quran is the word of _____. (the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ/Allah)
- 3) The Quran contains 114 _____. (surahs/ayat)
- 4) The verses in each surah are called _____. (wahi/ayat)
- 5) The only Book from Allah which has not changed is the _____. (Tawrat/Quran)

Match the Columns

Column A

Suhuf

Tawrat

Zabur

Injil

Quran

Column B

The Prophet Dawud عليه السلام

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام

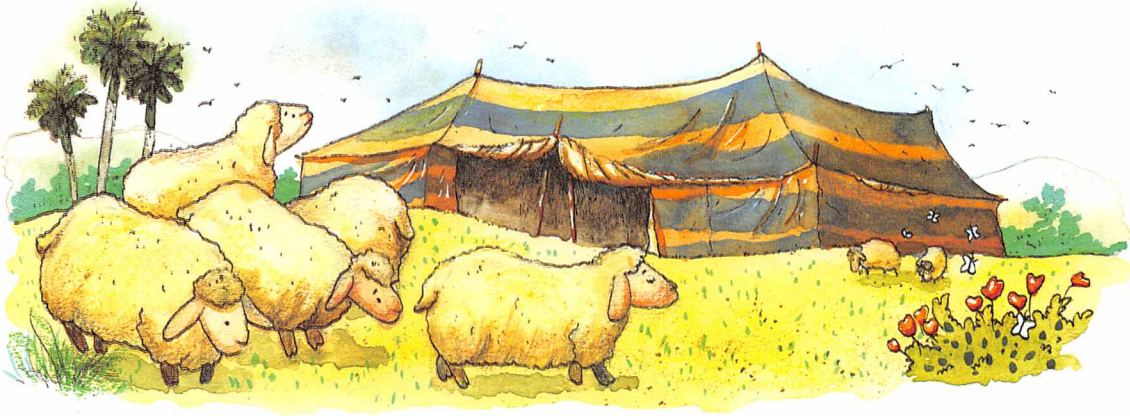
The Prophet Isa عليه السلام

State whether True or False

- 1) The Prophet Nuh عليه السلام never received a book from Allah.
- 2) The Quran contains Allah's own words.
- 3) The holy books of Allah were dropped from the heavens to the prophets.
- 4) The complete Quran was revealed in twenty-three days.
- 5) The Quran is the last book of guidance from Allah.



The Life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



In Chapter 2 we have seen that Allah sends His prophets to us who preach to us His message. We have also read about the *shahadah* which states that ‘there is no god but Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah’.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is known as *Rasulallah*, which means Allah’s messenger. He is Allah’s last prophet and messenger to humankind.

The life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is known as *sirah*. It teaches us many good things. As such we should learn about his life.

We must remember to say ‘*sallallahu alayhi wa sallam*’ (ﷺ) whenever we utter or hear the name of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This means ‘may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him.’

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah in the year

570 CE. It is known as the ‘Year of the Elephant.’ Do you know why? Read the story in the box to find out.

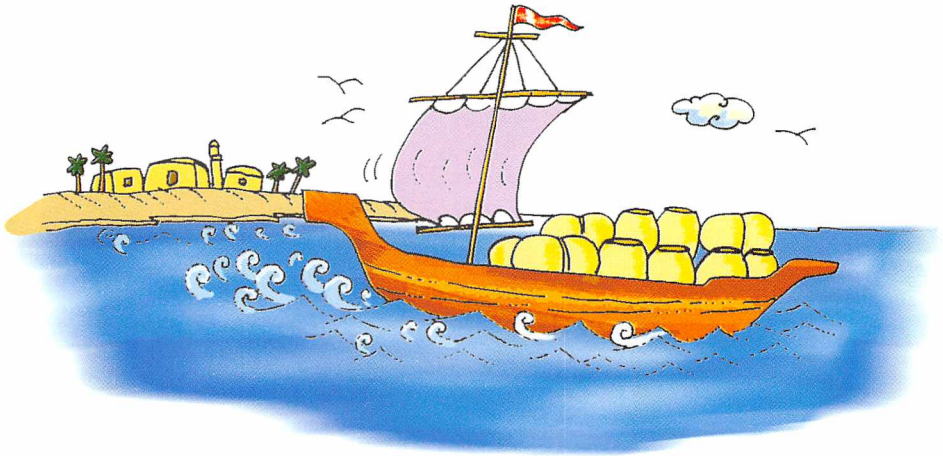
The Year of the Elephant

In the year 570 CE, Abrahah, the king of Ethiopia marched with his huge army towards Makkah to destroy the Kabah. His army had a war elephant. However, as the army came to Makkah, the elephant refused to enter into the vicinity of the Kabah and, instead, knelt down before it. Abrahah had to retreat, as his army was pelted with stones by birds.

The Prophet Muhammad’s father Abdullah died before he was born. His mother Aminah died when he was only six years old. He was adopted by his grandfather Abd al-Muttalib, who was the head of the Quraysh tribe, the guardians of the Kabah which was situated in Makkah. It was he who gave him the name ‘Muhammad,’ which means ‘worthy of praise.’ After the death of Abd al-Muttalib two years later, his uncle Abu Talib took care of him.

As the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ grew up, people came to love and trust him for his gentle nature and truthful ways. Those who came close to him grew to love him. For his truthful and trustworthy nature he was known as *as-Sadiq* (the truthful one) and *al-Amin* (one you can trust).

Under the guidance of Abu Talib, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ became a merchant and soon acquired a reputation for honesty and



hard work. A rich widow Khadijah employed him to trade her goods in Syria.

Impressed by his work and manners, Khadijah asked the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to marry her. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ agreed. It was a happy marriage and they had six children.

Many incidents in the Prophet's life at this time demonstrated his kindness. There was an old woman who hated the Prophet and would throw rubbish at him whenever he passed by her house. One day the woman fell ill. The Prophet went to her house to enquire about her. The old woman realized what a good-natured man the Prophet was. This shows that we should not bear ill-will even towards those who hurt us.

The Prophet also emerged as someone who could solve disputes to the satisfaction of everyone. One day, when he was thirty-five years old, the Kabah was destroyed in a fire. The four chief clans of Makkah rebuilt it. When it was time to put back the Black Stone first laid by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام, a dispute arose. Each of the four clans wanted to have the honour of putting the stone back.

The Prophet solved the dispute. He placed the sacred stone at the centre of a robe and asked the elders of the four clans to lift the four corners of the robe and carry the stone to the site. Then the

Prophet himself put the Black Stone in its proper place. Thus the problem solved. This demonstrated his ability to lead men and show them the way.

Marriage to Khadijah had given the Prophet the option to lead a comfortable life. But he sought the truth rather than wealth.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never worshipped idols and his heart always sought the Supreme God. There were many questions in his mind. What was man's purpose in life? Who was the Creator of all? Why did the people worship the idols whom they themselves had created. What did the Creator want of man? He wondered about the creation of the universe. He would often go to the cave of Hira in Mount al-Nur to meditate. On each occasion he would pass several days there in seclusion, seeking the eternal truth.



When he was forty, he went to the cave of Hira as usual to spend the month of Ramadan in seclusion.

It was here that the Prophet had an extraordinary experience.

One night, now known as the *Laylat al-Qadr* or 'the Night of Power and Excellence,' the angel Jibril appeared before him with a message from Allah. The angel Jibril said, 'Read!'

The Prophet said, 'I don't know how to read.'

Then the angel Jibril pressed the Prophet close to him for a while and then released him. Then again he said, 'Read!' At this, the Prophet again answered, "I don't know how to read." Jibril again pressed the Prophet close to him, and after releasing him, asked him to read. The Prophet repeated the same answer, "I don't know how to read." For the third time the angel Jibril pressed the Prophet close to him and said the following words:

Read, in the name of your Lord, who created, created man from a clot of blood. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous who taught man by the pen, taught him what he did not know. (Surah al-Alaq, 96:1-5)

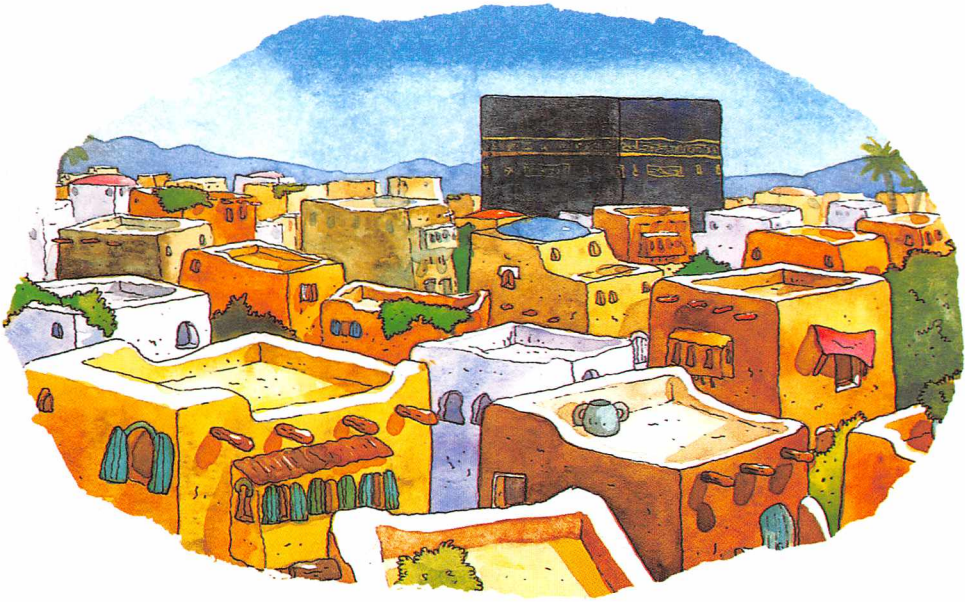
These were the first revealed words of the Quran.

This time the Prophet repeated the words.

The angel Jibril went away.

The experience left the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ confused and afraid. He thought: Who was the visitor? How did he come? What did his words mean?





In a terrified state the Prophet went back home and narrated the incident to his wife Khadijah. Khadijah comforted him with these words: “Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep up good relations with your kith and kin, help the poor and destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving among those afflicted by calamity.”

Then Khadijah took him to her cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal, and described the incident to him. Waraqah was a scholar of that time. He had a vast knowledge of revealed books. After listening to the incident Waraqah said that the angel was Jibril, who was sent to the previous prophets like Musa, Isa, etc. And Waraqah foretold that he would become a messenger of Allah, and he would be treated with hostility by his tribesmen. After a few days Waraqah died but his words came true. Allah made Muhammad ﷺ His Prophet. The divine inspiration given by the angel Jibril is known as *wahi*, or revelation. After the revelation of the cave of Hira, Allah kept on revealing His messages to the Prophet at different times and in different situations, though there was a pause of about two years after the first revelation.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born at _____. (Makkah/Madinah)
- 2) The Prophet was born in the year _____. (610 CE /570 CE)
- 3) The year of the Prophet's birth is also known as the 'Year of the _____. (Elephant/Camel)
- 4) The name 'Muhammad' means worthy of _____. (praise/trust)
- 5) The Prophet was _____ years old when the Angel Jibril first visited him. (40/25)

Match the Columns

Column A

Abdullah
Aminah
Abd al-Muttalib
Abu Talib
Khadijah

Column B

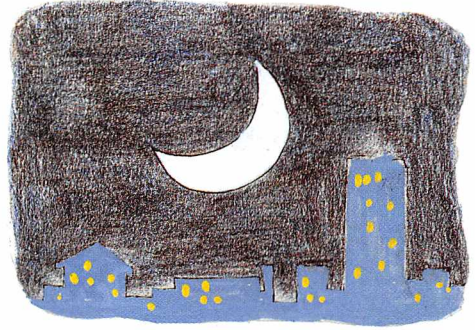
Uncle of the Prophet
Wife of the Prophet
Father of the Prophet
Mother of the Prophet
Grandfather of the Prophet

State whether True or False

- 1) The Prophet was known as as-Sadiq and al-Amin.
- 2) The name Abrahah is related to the 'Year of the Elephant.'
- 3) The angel Jibril visited the Prophet in the cave of Thawr.
- 4) After his marriage to Khadijah, the Prophet was content to lead a comfortable life of riches.
- 5) Waraqah had a vast knowledge of the Quran.



Muslims celebrate two major festivals: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fitr is celebrated on the first day of the month of Shawwal. And Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu'l Hijjah.



In the above paragraph you read two new names of months, i.e., Ramadan and Dhu'l Hijjah. You must be surprised that these names do not appear in the English calendar. No, these are months of the Islamic calendar, which is different from the English calendar. Read about the Islamic calendar at the end of this book.

Eid al-Fitr

The most important aspect of Eid al-Fitr is that it brings a joyful moment among the Muslims after the month-long fastings of Ramadan. Before any discussion on Eid al-Fitr, it is better to know about Ramadan which is closely linked with this festival.

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

The twenty-seventh night of Ramadan is very important. It was on this night that the first revelation of the Quran was made to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It is known as *Laylat al-Qadr*, or the Night of Power.

All Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan. This means that they do not eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. You have already read in Chapter 2 that this fast is called *sawm* and is one of the five pillars of Islam.

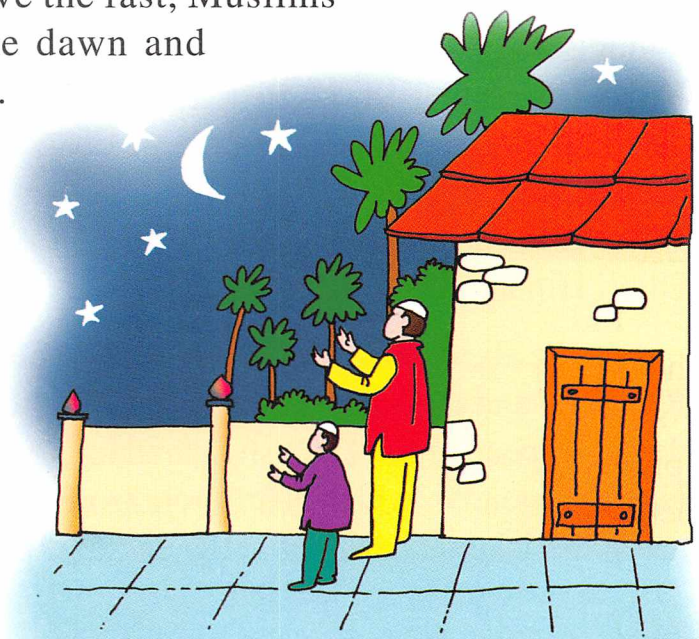
In order to observe the fast, Muslims wake up early before dawn and eat a small meal. This meal is called *suhur*.

For the rest of the day they refrain from all kinds of food and drink. After sunset they break the fast with a light meal called *iftar*.

Ramadan is a month of blessing and forgiveness. In this month people get rid of their bad habits. They remember the poor and the hungry and try to share what they have with others less fortunate.

It is also a time to spend time with family and friends.

Eid al-Fitr: Sighting of the new moon of the month of Shawwal ends the fasting of Ramadan. The next day is the first day of Shawwal and the day of celebrating Eid al-Fitr. A special prayer of two *rakahs wajib* is offered by Muslims in a huge congregation. This prayer is offered in an open place generally outside the village or town. When there is no open place to do so, the prayer is offered in the congregational mosques. After the prayer, the *khutbah* or sermon is given by the *Imam* (the leader of the prayer). Then,



after listening to the *khutbah*, people share their joy with each other.

To celebrate the joy of this day, Muslims dress themselves up in new clothes and use perfumes. People send gifts to their relatives, friends and neighbours. Muslims exchange the happiness of the day among themselves and say *Eid Mubarak* to each other, which means ‘have a blessed Eid.’

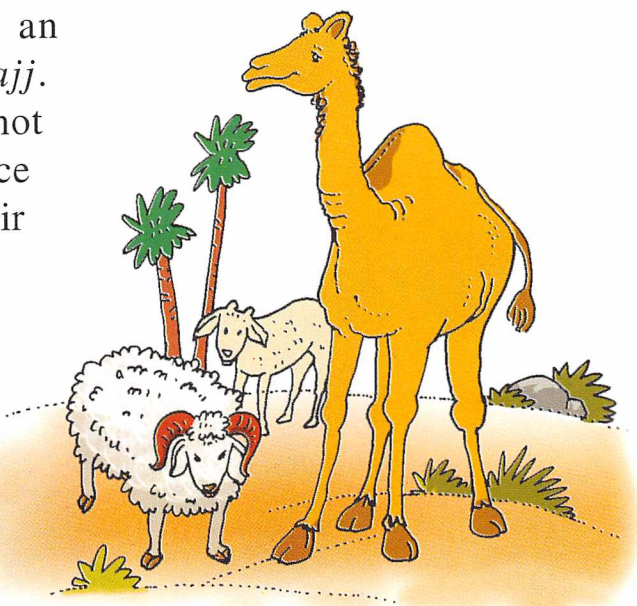
Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha is celebrated in the same way as Eid al-Fitr. But the special feature of Eid al-Adha is the *hajj* and the animal sacrifice. As we studied in Chapter 2, those who are able to undertake the *hajj* (pilgrimage), go on their *hajj* to the Kabah on this occasion. The performers of *hajj* are called *haji*.

Sacrifice of an Animal

The *hajis* sacrifice an animal during their *hajj*. However, those who do not perform *hajj*, also sacrifice animals on this day, if their means allow them.

Eid al-Adha is based on the concept of sacrifice. The sacrifice is made in memory of the great sacrifice made by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام.



The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was asked by Allah in a dream to sacrifice his little son, Ismail عليه السلام. When Ismail عليه السلام heard from his father about the command of Allah he agreed to be sacrificed for the cause of Allah without any hesitation. In the morning the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام walked with his son Ismail عليه السلام towards Mina to make the sacrifice. On the way Satan tempted him to disobey Allah. But being strong of faith in Allah, the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام hurled stones to drive Satan away. Reaching the place of sacrifice, the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام laid his son Ismail عليه السلام down on the ground. Allah was very pleased with the selfless devotion of Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. No sooner did the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام attempt to sacrifice his son for the cause of Allah than Allah in His abundant mercy, miraculously placed a ram in place of Ismail عليه السلام and saved the innocent and beloved child of the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام.

Thus the sacrifice of Eid al-Adha reminds us of our duty to submit to Allah's will at all times and at whatever the cost. The animal sacrifice is made for Allah alone and the meat is divided into three portions. One is kept for the family; the second is given to relatives, and the third portion to the poor and the needy.



EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) Eid al-Fitr marks the end of _____. (Shawwal/Ramadan)
- 2) Eid al-Adha is celebrated during the month of _____. (Ramadan/Dhu'l-Hijjah)
- 3) Laylat al-Qadr means the Night of _____. (Revelation/Power)
- 4) During Ramadan the meal Muslims have before sunrise is called _____. (suhur/iftar)
- 5) The sacrifice of an animal during Eid al-Adha is made to commemorate the great sacrifice made by the Prophet _____. (Ibrahim عليه السلام/Ismail عليه السلام)

Match the Columns

Column A

Ramadan

Dhu'l-Hijjah

Hijri

Suhur

Iftar

Column B

Breaking of the daily fast in Ramadan

The Islamic calendar

The meal before sunrise during Ramadan

The month of fasting

The month of pilgrimage

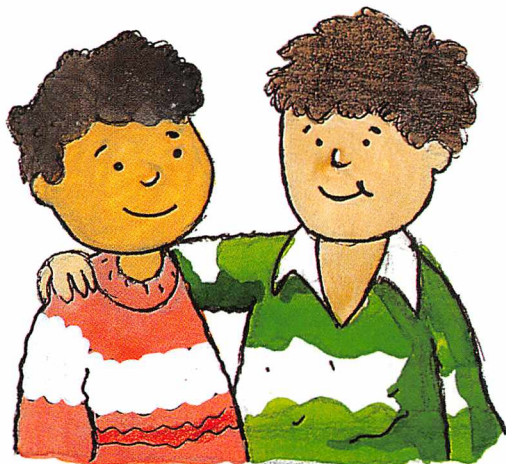
State whether True or False

- 1) Laylat al-Qadr falls in the month of Shawwal.
- 2) Eid al-Fitr is observed when the new moon of Ramadan is sighted.
- 3) After the Eid prayer the khutbah is given by the haji.
- 4) Only hajis are allowed to sacrifice an animal.
- 5) The meat of the sacrificed animal is divided into three portions.



Morals and Manners in Islam

Islam places a lot of importance on good manners and morals. As true believers we must at all times behave well and in a manner acceptable to Allah. The Prophet himself says in a *hadith*: 'I have been sent to complete the good manners.' Good manners perfect our personality and make our lives peaceful.



When Allah creates us, He creates us with a good nature. Then our moral character changes according to our education and society. Islam helps a man to build a good character. It is necessary for us to behave with good manners and avoid bad ones.

Let us look at some of the good manners and behaviour that we should exhibit in dealing with the various people we meet in daily life.

With Parents

Parents are the people closest to us. When we were born we found ourselves in their arms. They have sacrificed a lot for our well-being. Allah says in the Quran to be kind to parents. To show respect to parents, we should practise the following:

- ✦ We should be kind to our parents and show them due respect.
- ✦ We should take care of them.
- ✦ We should talk to them politely.
- ✦ We should not be rude to them or shout at them.

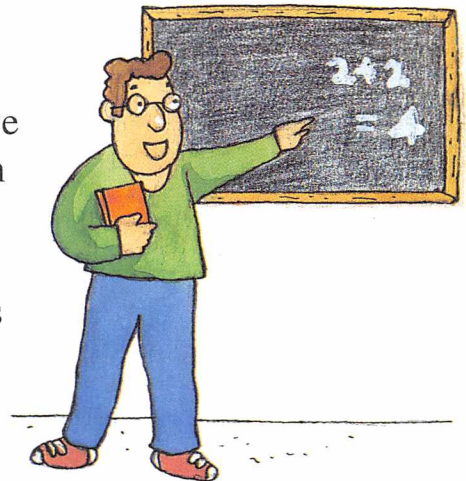
The Quran states:

“Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you show kindness to your parents. If either or both of them attain old age, show them no sign of impatience, nor rebuke them; but speak to them kind words. Treat them with humility and tenderness and say: ‘My Lord! Have mercy on them both as they did care for me when I was little.’” (Surah al-Isra, 17:23-24)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mentioned that disobeying parents is one of the three major sins.

With Teachers

After being with our parents we spend a large part of the day with teachers. They help us learn and provide us with knowledge. It is the duty of every Muslim to obey his teachers and follow their advice.



With Neighbours

Islam stresses the duties towards our neighbours. The relationship with our neighbours determines what peace and comfort we have where we live. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘One who believes in Allah and in the Hereafter should respect his neighbours.’ Therefore,







- ❖ We should be helpful towards our neighbours.
- ❖ We should visit them when they are sick.
- ❖ We should be polite to them and not quarrel with them.
- ❖ We should not be jealous of them, but should celebrate their happiness.
- ❖ We should help them when they are in trouble.

With Friends

Friends play an important role in our life. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had very good friends who were called his *sahabah* or companions. They loved the Prophet and supported him and would even lay down their own lives and possessions for him.

The friends you have often affect the way you behave with others. A bad friend will only make you do things which will displease Allah, like being lazy or lying or not praying. So everyone must be very careful in choosing a friend.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘A person is likely to follow the faith of his friend, so look whom you take as a friend.’

-  We should make friends those who have good manners.
-  We should help friends whenever they need help.
-  We should not abuse friends.
-  We should treat friends with good manners and share our knowledge with them.

Towards Fellow Muslims

All Muslims are brothers. We should be very careful how we behave with other Muslims. We must not have any hatred or jealousy for other Muslims. We should treat them with love and respect and not do anything that will hurt them. When we meet a Muslim we should always greet him or her with the following words:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullah

This means: ‘May peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah.’

When one greets you with the above, reply as follows:

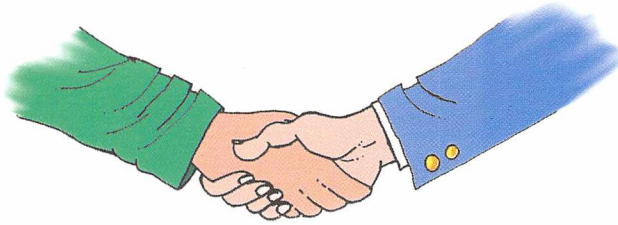
وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Wa alaykum as-salam wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

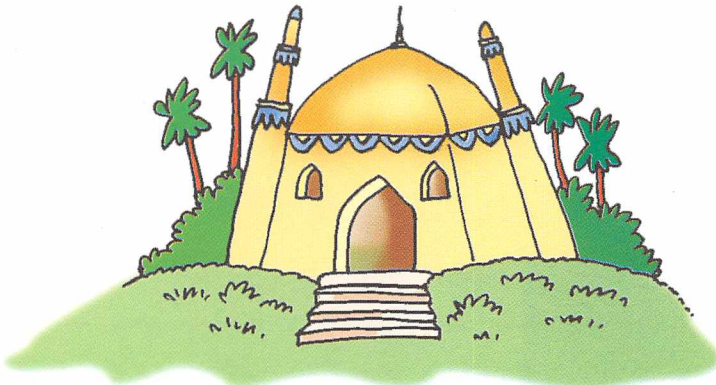
This means: ‘And peace be upon you and Allah’s mercy and blessings.’

Towards non-Muslims

All human beings are created by Allah, be they Muslims or non-Muslims. We live in society. Hence it is our duty to make our society peaceful and prosperous. In order to do so, we should be cooperative and helpful in all sorts of good activities, be they initiated by Muslims or non-Muslims. However, we must refrain from all sorts of evil activities. But in all good works we should help the non-Muslims.



- ✦ We should help the fellow non-Muslims when they need help.
- ✦ We should congratulate them on their achievements.
- ✦ We should sympathize them in their grief.



EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

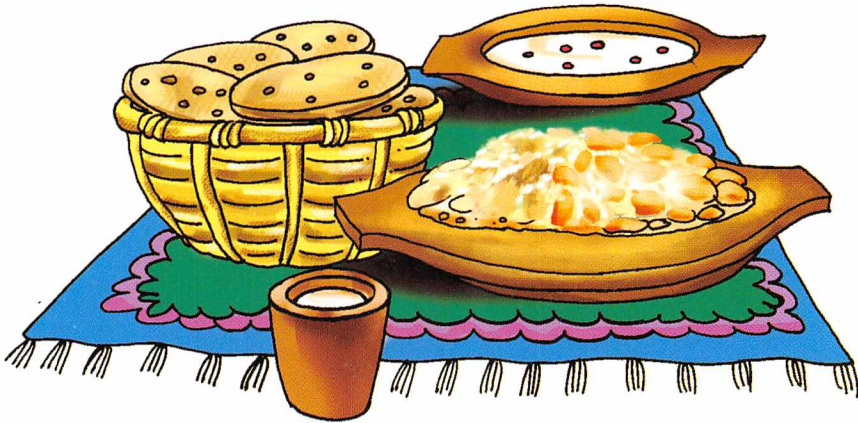
- 1) When Allah creates us, He creates us with _____ nature. (bad/good)
- 2) We must always be _____ to our parents. (kind/rude)
- 3) The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, 'One who believes in Allah and in the Hereafter should respect his _____.' (foes/neighbours)
- 4) The Prophet Muhammad's friends were called his _____. (sahabah/sunnah)
- 5) Muslims greet each other by saying: _____. (Good morning!/As-salamu alaykum)

Given below is a list of statements and two options for each. Read the sentences and tick (✓) which of the two options you should follow.

- 1) **You want to sleep but your mother wants you to help with the work in the house. You:**
 - Pretend to be unwell and keep sleeping
 - Get up and do the work and then ask her if you could rest
- 2) **Your teacher punishes you for not doing your homework. You:**
 - Shout at him and abuse him
 - Tell him that you are sorry and accept the punishment
- 3) **You are getting ready to pray. Your friend comes and asks you to go out with him and play. You:**
 - Agree immediately
 - Tell him to wait till your prayers are complete
- 4) **Your neighbour has bought a new car. You:**
 - Go and congratulate him on his happiness
 - Refuse to talk to him because you are jealous



Being our Creator Allah loves and cares for us. And He knows better what is good and what is bad for us. He has provided us with numerous foods on this earth. For our own good, He has permitted us to take pure and wholesome food. He has forbidden us some foods, so that we do not fall ill by taking these. If we take such forbidden food, we will incur Allah's anger as well.



The food that Allah has permitted us to eat is called *halal* food. The word '*halal*' means 'lawful' or 'allowed'. The food that Allah has forbidden us to take is called *haram* food. The word '*haram*' means 'unlawful' or 'prohibited'. In all circumstances we must avoid the *haram* and take only *halal* food.

Halal foods help our body, mind and spirit to grow. Thus they make us healthy.

Some foods which are considered as *halal* are fruits, vegetables, rice, cereals, honey, milk, eggs, and fish.

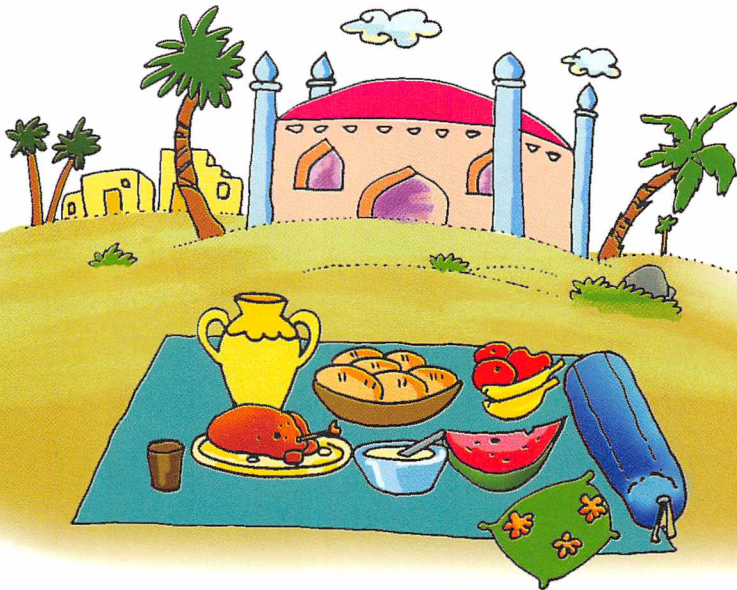
Meat is *halal* for us only when the animal or bird has been killed while reciting the name of Allah. This is called *zabihah*.

Zabihah is a procedure of killing an animal or bird by cutting its throat along with the jugular veins and reciting *Bismillah Allahu Akbar* (In the name of Allah, Allah is Most Great) while cutting.

If an animal is not killed by the *zabihah* procedure, or if it has died on its own or has been killed by a wild animal, its meat is *haram* for Muslims. Apart from these, there are various animals and birds whose meat is forbidden for Muslims. For example, bear, eagle, dog, swine, owl, lion, monkey, vulture, crow, etc.

The words *halal* and *haram* are not restricted only to food. They also apply to other things such as earnings, spending, dressing, manners, marriage, and life and death.

One is said to earn in a *haram* way if he earns by theft, fraud, cheating or gambling, etc. Even if a man spends his *haram* earnings on good activities, his good deeds will be considered *haram* rather than *halal*.



EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) Allah has forbidden us to eat _____ food. (halal/haram)
- 2) Halal means _____. (unlawful/lawful)
- 3) Fruits and vegetables are examples of _____ food. (halal/haram)
- 4) The process of cutting the throat of an animal and reciting the name of Allah to make it halal is called _____. (zabihah/zakah)
- 5) It is haram to earn money by _____. (theft/hard work)

Tick the appropriate box to state whether the animal or bird is *halal* or *haram* for food.

	Halal	Haram
Goat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peacock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tiger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elephant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

State whether True or False

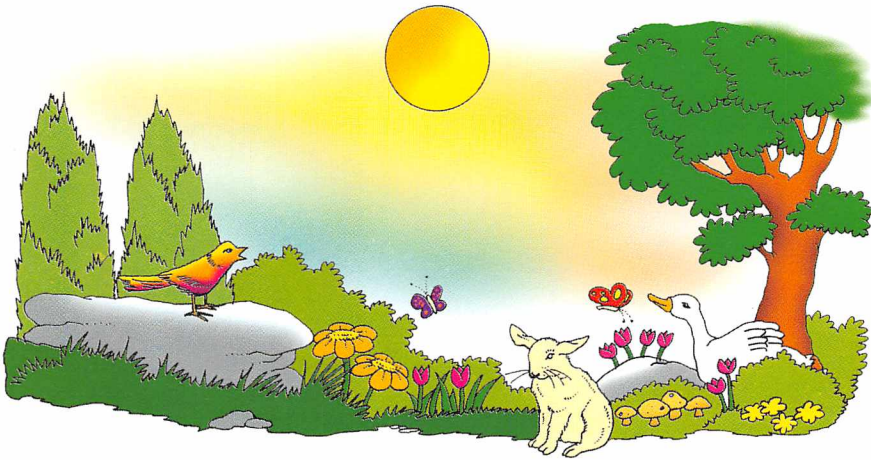
- 1) Haram food helps our body, mind, and spirits grow.
- 2) Allah has permitted us only halal food because He cares for us and would not like us to fall sick.
- 3) There are other things apart from food which may be halal or haram.
- 4) It is possible to make our haram earnings halal by doing good works with the money.
- 5) The meat of a swine is haram.



The Creation of the Universe

A long time ago, there was no earth, no sky, no sun or moon, nothing and nothing anywhere, except Allah.

Allah decided to create a beautiful universe. He created the earth, the skies, the galaxies and planets, the moon and the sun, and thousands of stars. He gave the earth beautiful flowers and plants and many animals, birds, and fishes. He did all this simply by saying, ‘Be’.



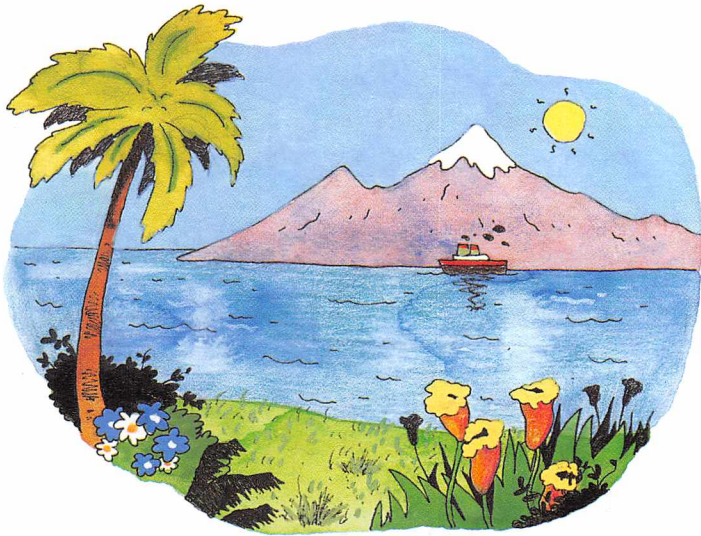
The Creation of Man

After He had created the world and made it fit for life, He decided to create a human being. He collected all kinds of soil and mixed it like potter’s clay. Then He moulded it into the shape of a man and breathed His spirit into it.

In this way He gave life to the first man—father to all of us. Allah named him Adam. He gave Adam ﷺ many gifts—the gifts of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch—and made him the first prophet.

When Allah told the angels about His intention to put Adam عليه السلام on earth, the angels were worried. They thought that man would commit errors and do evil. However, Allah had a greater purpose in creating Adam عليه السلام. He taught Adam عليه السلام the names of the righteous and pious souls who would inherit the earth. Allah told Adam عليه السلام to tell the names of these righteous and pious people to the angels.

When Adam عليه السلام told the names of these pious people, the angels realized Allah's purpose in creating man and sending him to earth. Allah then ordered the angels to bow down to Adam عليه السلام. All of them



bowed except Iblis, or Satan, who refused to bow to a man created out of clay. Iblis thus disobeyed Allah and incurred the curse of Allah till Judgement Day.

From the Gardens of Paradise to Earth

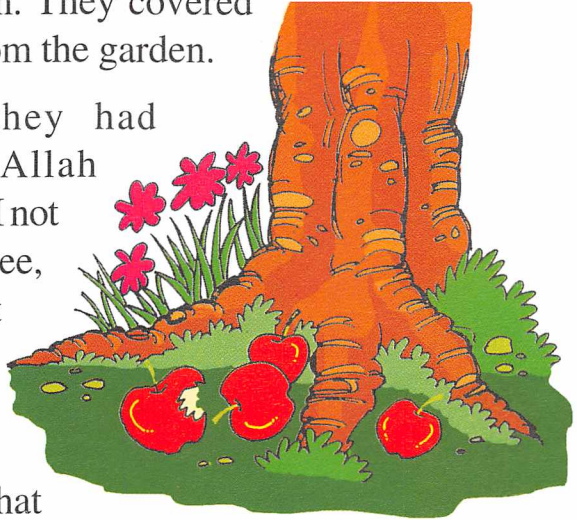
Allah also created the first woman, Hawwa (Eve), as a companion for Adam عليه السلام. He asked Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa to live in the beautiful gardens of Paradise and to eat its fruits. However, He warned them against approaching one particular tree and eating of its fruit.

Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa lived in the gardens of Paradise in peace and happiness. Seeing them thus honoured, Satan became jealous.

Satan approached them and convinced them that he was a sincere friend to them. He tempted them to eat from the forbidden tree, saying that it was the tree of eternal life. He said that if they ate from it they would never grow old, nor would they die.

Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa thought Satan was giving them sincere advice as a friend. They were thus tempted and ate from the forbidden tree. Thus they became wrongdoers and their shame became visible to them. They covered themselves with the leaves from the garden.

They realized that they had committed an error. Allah admonished them saying, 'Did I not forbid you to approach the tree, and did I not warn you that Satan was your enemy.' Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa begged Allah's forgiveness. Allah forgave them but told them that since they had disobeyed Him, they would have to leave the gardens of Paradise and go down to earth.



This was how Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa became the first human beings to inhabit the earth. From them all human beings descended and scattered all over the world. Allah made Adam عليه السلام the first prophet to teach His message to human beings, and to guide them to the right path of Allah.

The story of the Prophet Adam عليه السلام teaches us that all of us are descendants from one father, Adam عليه السلام, who was created by Allah. As such, all of us are equal.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) Before creation when nothing existed, there was only _____.
(Allah/darkness)
- 2) Allah created everything simply by saying ‘ _____ ’. (Be/Come Alive)
- 3) Allah taught _____ the names of the righteous and pious souls.
(Satan/Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ)
- 4) Allah created Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ out of _____. (soil/stone)
- 5) _____ was the first prophet of Allah. (Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ/Nuh عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ)

Match the Columns

Column A

Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Hawwa

Iblis

Down to earth

Angels

Column B

Satan

Bow down to Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

The first man

Disobedience to Allah

Wife of Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

State whether True or False

- 1) Allah made man by mixing all kinds of soil and moulding it into the shape of a man.
- 2) Satan refused to bow to Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.
- 3) Satan was a good friend to Adam and gave him friendly advice.
- 4) The story of the Prophet Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ teaches us that all of us are descended from one father and that, as such, we are all equal.



A Rightly Guided Caliph: Abu Bakr

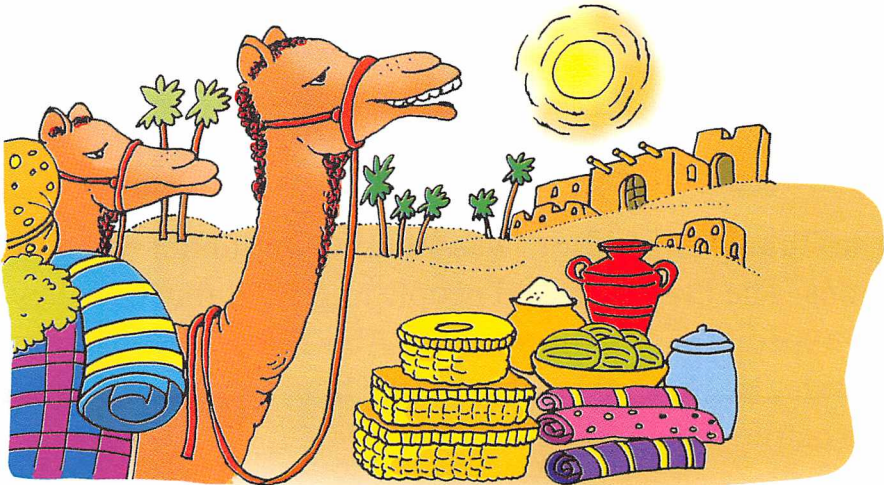
Abu Bakr remained a very close companion of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ right from boyhood.

He had a very clean and upright character. Besides, he was honest and truthful by nature.

He was a rich merchant with a very kind heart. He was never proud of his resources. He spent most of his wealth on freeing the poor and oppressed ones of their sufferings.

Abu Bakr firmly believed in the truthfulness of the Prophet. When the Prophet described to him about the revelation of cave Hira and of his being chosen as Messenger by Allah, Abu Bakr, without thinking over it, at once embraced Islam. And he was the first man to embrace Islam.

After accepting Islam, Abu Bakr proved to be a great help to the Prophet in the spread of Islam. Many of his friends responded to his call to join Islam, because they believed Abu Bakr to be a sincere

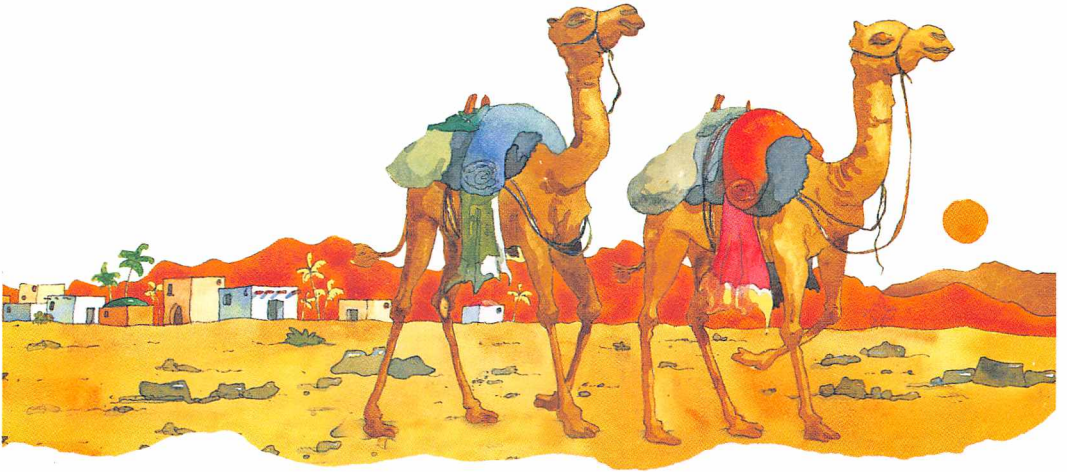


and honest person, who could never invite them to accept false faith.

Besides spreading Islam along with the Prophet he strove to his utmost against the pagans of Makkah. Abu Jahl, one of the dire enemies of the Muslims, once attempted to strangle the Prophet while he was praying at the Kabah. Upon seeing this, Abu Bakr rushed to the spot and saved the Prophet.

Whenever he saw someone in trouble, his heart melted and he did his utmost to help the victim. During the persecution of the Makkans, the worst sufferers were the slaves who had accepted Islam. Bilal ibn Rabah, who had been severely tortured by his master Umayyah ibn Khalf, was released by Abu Bakr.

The Prophet was accompanied by Abu Bakr on his *hijrah* (migration) to Madinah. It was Abu Bakr who arranged camels and foodstuff for the journey.



Abu Bakr was a sincere follower of Islam. He showed his bravery in various battles fought for the cause of Islam.

The Tabuk expedition was undertaken under very difficult conditions. The Prophet asked people to give as much as they could for this expedition. This time, what Abu Bakr contributed, no one could outdo. He took all his money and household items and heaped them up before the Prophet.

“Have you left anything for your family?” asked the Prophet. Abu Bakr calmly replied, “Allah and His Messenger are enough for them.” Everyone was stunned at this service of Abu Bakr for the cause of Islam.

When the Prophet died, a huge crowd gathered at the mosque of the Prophet. Everyone was stunned by this news, which seemed unbelievable to them. They did not know what to do. When Umar arrived there, he was so overwhelmed with emotion that he drew his sword and said, “If anyone says that the Messenger of Allah is dead, I will cut off his head.”

Abu Bakr was away on business and was a few miles from that place. When he learned about the demise of the Prophet, he returned immediately and found the crowd in a great turmoil. He addressed the grief-stricken public: “O people! If anyone among you worshipped Muhammad, let him know that Muhammad is dead. But those who worship Allah, let them know that he is alive and will never die. Let all of us recall the words of the Quran:

Muhammad is only a Messenger of Allah. There have been Messengers before him. What, will you turn back from Islam, if he dies or is killed?”
(Surah Al Imran, 3:144)

All the doubts of the people were magically swept away by these words of Abu Bakr. The verse of the Quran recited by him encouraged people to face the truth.

After the demise of the Prophet the question of a caliph (Arabic *khalifah* or governor of an Islamic State) soon arose.

Everyone supported Abu Bakr to become the caliph. Thus Abu Bakr became the first caliph of Islam. He is the first among the

khulafa ar-rashidun (the rightly guided caliphs), the others being Umar ibn al-Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan, and Ali ibn Abi Talib.

After the death of the Prophet many rebels arose in and around Madinah. Some refused to pay the *zakah*, while others declared themselves prophets to gain fame and wealth. The hypocrites, who



outwardly made a show of Islam but were inwardly hostile to Muslims, supported these rebels. There were even some who thought that Islam would come to an end after the death of the Prophet.

In this critical situation Abu Bakr with his small band of men and their commanders fought against all rebels and imposters and

finally overpowered all the rebellious enemies of Islam. This success was solely due to his firm faith in Allah and His Prophet.

In the year 13 A.H. Abu Bakr had a severe fever which proved fatal. All treatment to bring down the fever failed. Keeping in view his nearing death, Abu Bakr nominated Umar ibn al-Khattab to be the next caliph. He remembered the indiscipline which started after the death of the Prophet, and thought it might occur after his own death also. Before nominating Umar, he consulted other fellow Muslims and everyone agreed to his choice.

The fever of Abu Bakr lasted for two weeks and on the 7th day of Jumada ath-Thaniyah he took his last breath.

On his deathbed he told his daughter Aishah not to use a new cloth for wrapping up his dead body, and that the old and worn cloth which he was wearing then should be washed for the purpose.

The second thing he willed on his deathbed was to sell his land after his death and give all the money to the Public Treasury in order to pay back the money he had received as salary during his caliphate.

Abu Bakr was buried next to the grave of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in Madinah.

During his caliphate of two years, three months and ten days, Abu Bakr was able to do great things for Islam.

EXERCISES

Fill in the Blanks

- 1) Abu Bakr was the _____ man to accept Islam. (first/third)
- 2) _____ was freed from slavery by Abu Bakr. (Bilal/Umayyah)
- 3) The rebels against Islam received supports from the _____. (hypocrites/foreigners)
- 4) Abu Bakr nominated _____ to be the next caliph. (Umar/Uthman)

State whether True or False

- 1) Abu Jahl was a great admirer of Islam.
- 2) Umayyah ibn Khalf was a slave.
- 3) Abu Bakr accompanied the Prophet on his migration to Madinah.
- 4) "O people! If anyone among you worshipped Muhammad....." These words were spoken by Umar.

Questions

- 1) Why did the friends of Abu Bakr readily respond to his call to Islam?
- 2) How did Abu Bakr contribute to the Tabuk expedition?
- 3) What do you understand from the speech of Abu Bakr given at the death of the Prophet?



Supplications (Dua) for Daily Life

Dua before eating

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِيْمَا رَزَقْتَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ، بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

Allahumma barik lana fima razaqtana wa qina adhabannar. Bismillah.

O Allah! Bless us with what has been given to us and save us from Hellfire. In the name of Allah.

Dua after eating

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَطْعَمَنَا وَسَقَانَا وَجَعَلَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

Alhamdu lillahil ladhi atamana wa saqana wa ja'alana min al-Muslimin.

All praises are due to Allah who has given us to drink and eat and made us believers.

Dua after drinking water

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي سَقَانَا عَذْباً فُرَاتاً
بِرَحْمَتِهِ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْهُ مِلْحاً أُجَاجاً بِذُنُوبِنَا

*Alhamdu lillahil ladhi saqana adhban furatan birahmatihi
wa lam yaj' alhu milhan ujajan bidhunubina.*

All praises be to Allah who gave us to drink sweet water,
due to His mercy and did not make it (water)
bitter because of our sins.

Dua when entering home

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ خَيْرَ الْمَوْلَجِ وَخَيْرَ الْمَخْرَجِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
وَلَجْنَا وَبِسْمِ اللَّهِ خَرَجْنَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ رَبِّنَا تَوَكَّلْنَا

*Allahumma inni as'aluka khayral-mawlaji
wa khayral-makhraj. Bismillahi wa lajna wa bismillahi
kharajna. Wa 'alallahi rabbina tawakkalna.*

O Allah, I ask You the blessing of entering home and the
blessing of leaving home. With the name of Allah we
enter and with the name of Allah we leave, and upon our
Sustainer, Allah, do we rely.

Dua when leaving home

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ

Bismillahi tawakkaltu 'alallah.

(I start) in the name of Allah. I depend on Allah.

Dua after boarding a vehicle

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا
كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ وَإِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ

*Alhamdu lillahi subhanalladhi sakhkharalana hadha
wa ma kunna lahu muqrinina wa inna ila
rabbina lamunqalibun.*

Praise be to Allah! Glory to Him who has subjected these to us. But for Him we could not be their masters. To our Lord we shall return.

Dua when starting for a journey

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الصَّاحِبُ فِي السَّفَرِ وَالْخَلِيفَةُ فِي الْأَهْلِ

Allahumma antas-sahibu fis-sافر wal khalifatu fil ahl.

O Allah! You are my companion during the journey and the safekeeper of my family (in my absence).

Surah al-'Asr

THE DECLINING DAY



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٣﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

I swear by the declining day that loss shall be the lot of man, except for those who have faith and do good works; who exhort each other to justice and to fortitude.

Surah al-Humazah

THE SLANDERER



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ ﴿٢﴾ يُحْسِبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ ﴿٣﴾
كَلَّا لَيُنْبَذَنَّ فِي الْحُطَمَةِ ﴿٤﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطَمَةُ ﴿٥﴾ نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمَوْقُودَةُ ﴿٦﴾ الَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ
عَلَى الْأَفْعَةِ ﴿٧﴾ إِنَّمَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّؤَصَّدَةٌ ﴿٨﴾ فِي عَمَدٍ مُّمَدَّدَةٍ ﴿٩﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Woe to every backbiting slanderer who amasses riches and sedulously hoards them, thinking his wealth will render him immortal! By no means! He shall be flung into the Destroying Flame.

Would that you knew what the Destroying Flame is like! It is Allah's own kindled fire, which will rise up to the hearts of the men. It will close upon them from every side, in towering columns.

Surah al-Fil

THE ELEPHANT



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ ﴿١﴾ أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضَلُّيلٍ ﴿٢﴾ وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ ﴿٣﴾ تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ ﴿٤﴾ فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ ﴿٥﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Have you not considered how Allah dealt with the Army of the Elephant? Did He not confound their stratagem and send against them flocks of birds which pelted them with clay-stones, so that they became like the withered stalks of plants which cattle have devoured?

Surah Quraysh

QURAYSH



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَا يَلْفُ قُرَيْشٍ ﴿١﴾ إِذْ لَفِيهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ ﴿٢﴾ فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِّن جُوعٍ وَءَامَنَهُمْ مِّنْ خَوْفٍ ﴿٤﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

For the protection of Quraysh: their protection in their summer and winter journeyings. Therefore, let them worship the Lord of this House, who fed them in the days of famine and shielded them from all peril.

The Islamic Calendar

The Islamic calendar is called the Hijri calendar, because it was started from the *hijrah* of the Prophet.

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. Unlike the regular calendar, called the solar or Gregorian calendar, which follows the cycles of the sun, the Islamic calendar follows the cycles of the moon.

A lunar month starts when the new moon is sighted. A lunar month is about 29 or 30 days long and as such a lunar year is 11 days shorter than the solar year.

The Islamic calendar starts from the month of Muharram and ends with the month of Dhu'l Hijjah.

The names of the months of the Islamic calendar are as listed below.

1. Muharram
2. Safar
3. Rabi al-Awwal
4. Rabi ath-Thani
5. Jumada al-Ula
6. Jumada ath-Thaniyyah
7. Rajab
8. Shaban
9. Ramadan
10. Shawwal
11. Dhu'l Qadah
12. Dhu'l Hijjah



When a Hijri year is mentioned, it is written with AH, for example, 1432 AH. Here AH means After Hijrah.